to ensure that Indian's security and national interests are fully safeguarded against all eventualities.

पृथ्वी प्रक्षेपास्त्र की तैनाती

1723. डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत के चारों तरफ पाकिस्तान, चीन और हिन्द महासागर में अमरीकी और चीनी शस्त्रों का जमाव हो रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार के पास आस संबंध में मही-सही सूचनाएं क्या हैं; और

(ग) भारत शस्त्रों के इस जमाव को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी सीमाओं की सुरक्षा हेतु पृथ्वी प्रक्षेपास्त्रों को उचित स्थानों पर कब तक तैनात करेगा?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) और (ख) जी हां। अमरीकी कांग्रेस में ब्राउन संशोधन पारित होने के परिणामस्वरूप 1996 में पाकिस्तान को 368 अमरीकी डालर की कीमत के अमरीकी हथियारों की आपूर्ति की गई। कहा जाता है कि चीन गत चार दशकों से पाकिस्तान को हथियार, टैंक, युद्धपोत, विमान प्रक्षेपास्त्र और उनसे संबंधित प्रौद्योगिकियों की आपूर्ति करता आ रहा है। सरकार को चीन के सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम के साथ-साथ हिंद-महासागर में विदेशी सैनिक अड्डों की मौजूदगी की जानकारी है।

(ग) सरकार ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि ये घटनाएं भारत की सुरक्षा के लिए एक चुनौती है और इस क्षेत्र में शान्ति और सुरक्षा बनाए रखने में सहायक नहीं है। सरकार भारत के सुरक्षा वातावरण से संबंधित घटनाओं के मूल्यांकन को ध्यान में रखते हुए देश की सुरक्षा और राष्ट्रीय हित के संरक्षण के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाती रही है और निरंतर उठाती रहेगी।

Visit of Ministers/M.Ps to Foreign Countries

1724. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of Minister/M.Ps who visited foreign countries on official tours during the period between 1991—95 and 1996-97, and the total expenses borne by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of FBI Station in India

1725. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has asked the Government of India for permission to set-up a declared Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) station in India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal, indicating its objectives and *modus operandi*; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) and (b) No formal request has been received from the United States Government for permission to set up a separate office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in india.

(c) Does not arise.

Pak Chemical Wapons Stock

1726. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI O. P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is still engaged in research, development and stock-piling of chemical weapons, while India has already declared its Chemical Weapons Stock under the Chemical Weapons Convention signed by it; and

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the Pak Chemical Weapons Stock and its reaction to the continuing Pak-Stock-pile being built up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of press reports about Pakistan's suspected chemical weapons programme. However, the Pakistan Government has in an official statement stated *inter-alia* that "Pakistan has always been an ardent advocate of a complete ban on the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons". Pakistan is a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) but is yet to ratify it. Government is hopeful that Pakistan will ratify the CWC at the earliest. India is an orginal State Party to CWC which entered into force on 29th April, 1997. The convention requires States Parties to provide certain declarations within stipulated time schedules. Accordingly, India submitted these declarations which contain details of India's chemical weapons' stocks and production facilities, as mandated by the Convention.

Burton Amendment Reducing US Aid to India

1727. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposed Burton Amendment, advocating reduction in aid to India by the US; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Government are aware that, as in past years, US Congressman Dan Burton has proposed amendments to the Foreign Operations appropriations Bill. The thrust of the amendments is to limit US development assistance to India, on grounds of alleged human rights violations. Last year, a similar Burton Amendment had been resoundingly defeated.

(b) Government have categorically rejected the baseless allegations circulated by Congressman Burton to his Congressional colleagues. Government's strong opposition to such allegations have been made clear to US congressmen and Senators. Government remain alert to developments in this regard.

Meeting of ASEAN Regional forum in Kuala Lumpur

1728. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended a meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Kuala Lumpur from July 26—29, 1997, besides the Minister of State for External Affairs who lead the Indian Delegation to the meeting at the Foreign Ministers' level, held on July 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in Kuala Lumpur and the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether there was any appreciation of India's foreign policy under the "Gujral doctrine"; if so, what was the impression/significance of PM's visit among the ASEAN?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Prime Minister did not attend the meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) held in Kuala Lumpur from July 26-27, 1997. However, Finance Minister Shri P Chidambaram led the Indian delegation which included Shri S. Sherwani, Minister of State for External Affairs.

(b) Both the Finance Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs attended the above mentioned meetings as well as held extensive bilateral talks on issues of mutual concern with leaders from countries attending the meetings. These countries include USA, Russia, China, New Zealand, Canada, apart from the the ASEAN member countries.